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-- 30. The process of claim 28, wherein said LBP is murine LBP.--

-- 31. The process of claim 28, wherein said LBP is at least one of rabbit or rat LBP.--

-- 32. The process of claim 28, wherein said LBP is a hybrid protein of LBP with an LPS binding site of bactericidal/permeability increasing protein (BPI) of LBP with the LPS binding site of the limulus anti-LPS factor (LALF).--

-- 33. The process of claim 28, wherein said variants and/or mutants of LBP are point-mutated variants the functions of which are improved at the LPS binding site (amino acids 91-101) by individual exchanges of amino acids.--

REMARKS

Claims 12-18, and 28-33 are in the application.

In response to the restriction requirement, the applicant elects claims 28-33 which replace previous claims 19-21. This election also represents a traverse of the earlier restriction requirement, because claims 28-33 are not directed to a different invention than claim 28.

A favorable initial action on the claims is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted

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It is hereby certified that this is being mailed on September 10, 2002

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Francene Sawyer